

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02362 121253 Z

51

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2362

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR RSS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, OCON, IR

SUBJ: PROTECTION OF PARTICIPANTS TO NEA CHIEFS OF MISSION
CONFERENCE

REF: TEHRAN 1904

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH SECURITY MEASURES BEING TAKEN
TO PROTECT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND IDENTIFIES SOME POSSIBLE
PROBLEM AREAS. END SUMMARY

1. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING FULLY IN MAKING
ARRANGMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. PLAIN-
CLOTHES AND UNIFORMED SECURITY PERSONNEL TO BE STATIONED IN
AND AROUND HOTEL AND ALONG AREA BETWEEN HOTEL AND EMBASSY.
ADDITIONAL POLICE TO BE POSTED ADJACENT TO CONFERENCE SITE.
EACH PARTICIPANT TO BE PROVIDED WITH POLICE ESCORT FROM AIRPORT
TO HOTEL OR EMBASSY COMPOUND. ALTHOUGH SEMIRAMIS HOTEL IS
WITHIN 200 YARDS OF EMBASSY COMPOUND, SHUTTLE BUSES WITH
POLICE ESCORT WILL TRANSPORT PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN HOTEL AND
COMPOUND BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM AND 5:00 PM
TO 7:00 PM. UPON COMPLETION OF CONFERENCE, PARTICIPANTS WILL
BE PROVIDED WITH POLICE ESCORT ON RETURN TRIP TO AIRPORT.

2. EMBASSY HOPING TO ARRANGE FOR FULL SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMMED
ACTIVITIES FOR SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVENINGS. BUSES AND
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02362 121253 Z

SEDANS WITH POLICE ESCORT WILL TRANSPORT PARTICIPANTS TO AND FROM THESE SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO A PARTICIPANT WHO ELECTS TO MOVE ABOUT ON HIS OWN VOLITION AND NOT FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE. TO PROTECT PARTICIPANTS UNDER THESE CONDITIONS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE ADVANCED NOTICE OF PLANNED MOVEMENTS AND TO REQUEST THE POLICE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OVER AND ABOVE THE LARGE NUMBER BEING PROVIDED ALREADY.

4. SOME PARTICIPANTS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY DESIRE TO STAY ON IN IRAN AFTER THE CONFERENCE FOR PERSONAL REASONS, SUCH AS SIGHTSEEING IN TEHRAN OR TRAVELLING TO POINTS OF INTEREST OUTSIDE OF TEHRAN. THIS CREATES ANOTHER PROTECTION PROBLEM. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH US TO REQUEST THE POLICE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO THESE INDIVIDUALS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE CONFERENCE? WE ARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO GIVEN HEAVY BURDEN WE ARE PUTTING ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES DURING CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE REPEATED WHEN CENTO MEETING CONVENES IN JUNE. ALTERNATIVE IS FOR DEPARTMENT TO ASK CHIEFS OF MISSION NOT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE TEHRAN AFTER CONFERENCE BUT TO RETURN TO THEIR POSTS.

5. AS WAS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT URGE PARTICIPANTS TO COOPERATE FULLY BY RESTRICTING THEIR ACTIVITIES TO PROGRAMMED EVENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOW EVENMORE IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON THE COM CONFERENCE.

6. THE BUREAU' S AND SY' S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS CITED IN PARAGRAPHS 3, 4 AND 5 ARE UURGENTLY REQUESTED.
HELMS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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